The authentic data on child labour is based on the Census which is carried out at ten years' interval. Age group-wise data on workers is not available in the first Census carried out in 1951. The percentage of child labour (0-14 age group) to the total workers was 8.04 and 5.18 according to 1961 Census and 1981 Census (excluding Assam) respectively. The definition of workers in 1981 Census included both main and marginal workers. Due to conceptual changes the figures for 1961 and 1981 are not strictly comparable.

(b) There was no specific allocation earmarked for Child Labour Welfare Schemes in the Ministry of Labour prior to the year 1979-80 when an allocation of Rs. one lakh was made. Allocations of Rs. 13.75 lakhs and Rs. 510 lakhs were made during the Sixth and Seventh Plan periods respectively (1980-85 and 1985-90).

National Policy and Action Plan for Child Labour

781. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the existing National Policy and Action Plan in relation to child labour for ensuring economic compensation to child's family; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING BHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The project based Plan of Action under the National Policy on Child Labour 1987 envisages setting up of special schools for child workers wherein together with vocational and non-formal education, supplementary nutrition and health care a stipend is paid to the children taken out from prohibited employments (to partially compensate the loss in earnings of the respective families).

782. [*Transferred to the 3rd December, 1991.*]

Maternity leave to adoptive mothers

783. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide maternity leave to adoptive mothers who are the members of All India Services; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) This is under consideration.

(b) On the recommendations of the 4th Pay Commission, the facility of taking leave of the kind due and admissible in continuation of such maternity leave without production of medical certificate has been extended from 60 days to one year. In the case of an adoptive mother grant of maternity leave which is solely meant for the benefit of the natural mother to get over the effect of child birth and to regain normal health is not considered justified. However, as in the case of a natural mother, the need for postnatal care for the adopted child is equally present and the necessity of the adoptive mother being with the child initially also needs consideration. It has been proposed that even in the case of adoptive mothers who are members of the All India Service, the facility of leave of the kind due and admissible not exceeding one year without production of medical certificate may be extended subject to the following conditions:—

(i) The facility will not be available to an adoptive mother already having two living children at the time of adoption.

(ii) The maximum admissible period of one year's leave of the kind due and admissible without production of medical certificate will be reduced by the age of the child, as in the following illustrations;

— if the age of the adopted child is less than one month leave upto one year may be allowed.